



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT: Guilt Verdict

Defendant: Kirk Lanam

**FORMER COMPUTER SYSTEMS MANAGER FOUND GUILTY
OF COMPUTER INTRUSION**

A former computer systems manager for three Detroit suburban companies was found guilty by a federal jury in Detroit of using one of his client's computer networks to attack the other two, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by FBI Special Agent in Charge Daniel D. Roberts, of the Detroit Division.

Found guilty on three felony counts of computer intrusion was Kirk Lanam 34, of Livonia, a former computer Systems Manager and Consultant for Total Mortgage Corporation, Keller Williams, Inc. and Air Source One, Inc, all of the Detroit area.

The jury deliberated for about three hours before returning the verdict, concluding a five-day trial before United States District Judge Avern Cohn.

The evidence presented during the trial showed that between March 1, 2005 and March

8, 2005, Lanam used a client's computer network to attack former clients' computer networks via the Internet. The evidence demonstrated that Lanam turned off one company's firewall, leaving that computer network vulnerable to infection by Internet worms and viruses. Further, Lanam launched an attack called a "ping flood" against the computer-based telephone system of one of his former clients, which had the effect of overwhelming the phone system with so much data that the system was overwhelmed and rendered inoperable.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Computer intrusions damage companies and violate the privacy of legitimate computer users. I am pleased that our recently established Computer, High Tech Crime, and Intellectual Property Unit ("CHIP Unit"), together with the FBI's excellent Cyber Squad, has brought this complex investigation to a successful conclusion. Hackers may be sophisticated, but they can be caught. Intrusion cases may be complicated, but they can be proven in court. My hat is off of the FBI for the excellent investigation they conducted here."

All three charges are felonies and carry a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine, although any sentence will be imposed pursuant to the United States Sentencing Guidelines, which are advisory to the Court.

A sentencing date for Lanam will be scheduled by the Court. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Graham L. Teall.